

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



April 18, 2007

Reply to Attn of: General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Attendees at the AIAA Congressional Reception, April 18, 2007

On April 18, 2007, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) will host a reception at the B-339 Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, DC from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in conjunction with its Congressional Visits Day (CVD). The AIAA is the largest technical society for aerospace professionals worldwide, devoted to the progress of science and engineering in both aviation and space. AIAA's CVD is an annual event that brings scientists, engineers, researchers, educators, and technology executives to Washington to raise visibility and support for science, engineering, and technology. NASA personnel will not be participating in the CVD activities and those activities are not covered by this determination.

The reception will be widely attended by Federal officials from other Government organizations, local government officials, representatives of industry and academia, members of Congress and their staffers, and private individuals. Approximately 150 people are expected to attend. The estimated cost of the reception, which includes all food and beverages, is \$15 per person. I find that this event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g).

I further determine that there is an Agency interest in NASA personnel attending the event. The reception will allow NASA employees the opportunity to discuss science and exploration related issues with other guests. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect AIAA or a majority of all of its members may accept an invitation for free attendance to the reception for themselves and their spouses or guests.

NASA employees whose duties substantially affect AIAA or a majority of all of its members, for instance by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Andrew Falcon". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "F" and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

R. Andrew Falcon